

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-8. (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for casting of metal, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold removably connected to said reservoir and defining a mold cavity, said mold comprising:

a mold housing having a plurality of channels for delivering oil and gas to the mold cavity;

a primary cooling section including a circumferential wall formed of permeable wall material, provided along an interior wall of said mold housing, so as to define a wall of the mold cavity, wherein oil and/or gas can be supplied through said permeable wall material to the mold cavity, ~~and primary cooling to the metal being cast being provided by heat transfer through the permeable wall material;~~

a secondary cooling section including at least one annular slit arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant into the cavity so as to provide secondary cooling of the metal being cast; and

an insulating plate provided with through holes communicating said reservoir with the mold cavity, said insulating plate having a protrusion extending in an axial direction of the mold along the wall of the cavity and the length of the protrusion is selected based on the required primary cooling effect.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 9, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

12. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 9, wherein said mold housing comprises a first housing part surrounding said permeable wall material, a second housing part, and a thermally insulating annular plate arranged against the first housing part in order to reduce the thermal transfer between the mold cavity and an intermediate cooling channel that is defined by said first and second housing parts and said thermally insulating annular plate.

13. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 12, wherein said insulating annular plate is exchangeable with another insulating annular plate having a different thickness.

14. (Currently Amended) Horizontal continuous casting equipment for casting metal, said equipment comprising an insulated reservoir for containing liquid metal, and a mold removably connected to said reservoir and defining a mold cavity, said mold comprising:

a mold housing having a plurality of channels for delivering oil and gas to the mold cavity in order to permit the supply of oil and gas to be varied about the circumference of the mold cavity;

permeable wall material provided along an interior wall of said mold housing so as to define a wall of the mold cavity, wherein oil and/or gas can be supplied through said permeable wall material to the mold cavity, and heat transport transfer through the permeable wall material provides primary cooling to the metal being cast;

a plurality of nozzles arranged along a circumference of the cavity for directly supplying coolant into the cavity so as to provide secondary cooling of the metal being cast; and

an insulating plate provided with through holes communicating said reservoir with the mold cavity, wherein said insulating plate is provided with a

protrusion that extends along said permeable wall material in an axial direction of the mold such that a cooling effect is affected by the length of the protrusion.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 14, wherein said mold housing is formed of steel.

17. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 14, wherein said mold housing comprises a first housing part surrounding said permeable wall material, a second housing part, and a thermally insulating annular plate arranged against the first housing part in order to reduce the thermal transfer between the mold cavity and an intermediate cooling channel that is defined by said first and second housing parts and said thermally insulating annular plate.

18. (Previously Presented) The equipment as claimed in claim 17, wherein said insulating annular plate is exchangeable with other insulating annular plates having different thicknesses.